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Round Robin

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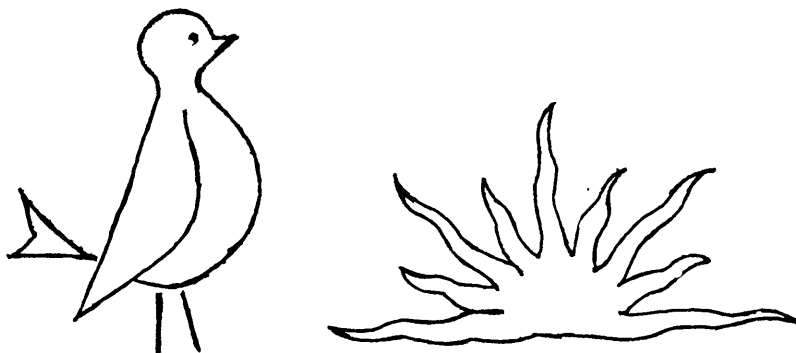
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ROUND ROBIN

Dorothy E. Smith, Editor

What special qualities should a good teacher of reading have? What behavior characteristics should be avoided at all costs? Most of you probably have answered these questions long ago but we thought it might be interesting to hear what people who are about to begin teaching think. Here are some of their answers.

What is the single most important quality a teacher of reading should have?

He should not have a preconceived unchangeable idea, received from test scores, etc., that encourages him to place the child in a learning group and leaves him there.

Preston Storms
Southgate, Michigan

Understanding—an understanding of the students' needs concerning reading.

Pam Wallberg
Muskegon, Michigan

I think if you had asked this last year I would have said knowing the proper approach to teaching phonics, comprehension, and the other skills of teaching reading, but now I feel that patience and understanding are more important than knowing facts.

Pat Dillon
Paw Paw, Michigan

The teacher must be able to recognize in a fairly short time the abilities of the individual student . . .

Linda Brooks
Mattawan, Michigan

... the ability to make reading an enjoyable experience for children.

Kathy Michels
Livonia, Michigan

The teacher's own attitudes and feelings toward reading are going to determine her effectiveness or ineffectiveness as a reading teacher.

Linda Titman
St. Joseph, Michigan

What should the teacher of reading avoid at all costs?

Requiring a child who stumbles over a page to reread this page over and over again.

Pat Dillon
Paw Paw, Michigan

Making a child write out, twenty-five times, a word that is unknown to him.

Eleanor Busby
Flint, Michigan

The worst thing is to stick to absolutely rigid grouping.

Margaret Hess
Detroit, Michigan

To tell a child that he cannot learn to read and there is no use in trying.

Sherry Taylor
Niles, Michigan

To make a child read in front of the whole class if he makes an error in reading. I had to do this for twenty minutes once, and naturally I made more and more errors as time went by.

Suzanne Miller
Paw Paw, Michigan

Although I can see merit in looking up unfamiliar words, my teacher gave vocabulary quizzes that were so detailed we couldn't even enjoy the stories because we were so busy making sure we knew the definition of every word.

Becky Belson
Lansing, Michigan

The worst thing for a teacher to do is to lower his self concept by really giving up on him herself. Children are quick

to sense such attitudes. A good teacher may get discouraged but she should never admit defeat to herself or to the child involved.

Linda Titman

St. Joseph, Michigan

Forcing all children to stay together as one group and to make reading extremely boring for some and extremely difficult for others.

Pam Wallberg

Muskegon, Michigan

To aim the lesson at the middle group and ignore the two outer groups.

Preston Storms

Southgate, Michigan